



St John The Evangelist

Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millend/>



Our Lady Help of Christians

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth>



St John Fisher

Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/chorleywood>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

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Livestreaming:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Mill End Parish

TBA

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Diocesan Safeguarding

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 25TH JANUARY 2026

A disarming peace

Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child. The mystery of the Incarnation, which reaches its deepest descent even to the realm of the dead, begins in the womb of a young mother and is revealed in the manger in Bethlehem. "Peace on earth," sing the angels, announcing the presence of a defenceless God, in whom humanity can discover itself as loved only by caring for him. Nothing has the power to change us as much as a child. Perhaps it is precisely the thought of our children and of others who are equally fragile, that cuts to the heart (cf. *Acts 2:37*). In this regard, my venerable predecessor wrote that "*human fragility has the power to make us more lucid about what endures and what passes, what brings life and what kills. Perhaps for this reason, we so often tend to deny our limitations and avoid fragile and wounded people: they have the power to question the direction we have chosen, both as individuals and as a community.*"

John XXIII was the first pope to advocate "integral disarmament," which can only be achieved through renewal of the heart and mind. In *Pacem in Terris*, he wrote: "*Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from our minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust.*"

An essential service that religions must render to a suffering humanity is to guard against the growing temptation to weaponize even thoughts and words. The great spiritual traditions, as well as right reason, teach us to look beyond blood ties or ethnicity, beyond associations that accept only those who are similar and reject those who are different. Today, we see that this cannot be taken for granted. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly common to drag the language of faith into political battles, to bless nationalism, and to justify violence and armed struggle in the name of religion. Believers must actively refute, above all by the witness of their lives, these forms of blasphemy that profane the holy name of God. Therefore, alongside action, it is more necessary than ever to cultivate prayer, spirituality, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue as paths of peace and as languages of encounter within traditions and cultures. Throughout the world, it is to be hoped that "every community become a 'house of peace,' where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished." Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia by fostering attentive and life-giving pastoral creativity.

In today's world, justice and human dignity are at an alarming risk amid global power imbalances. How can we live in this time of destabilization and conflict, and free ourselves from evil? We need to encourage and support every spiritual, cultural and political initiative that keeps hope alive, countering the spread of "fatalistic terms, as if the dynamics involved were the product of anonymous impersonal forces or structures independent of the human will." For, as has been suggested, "the best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values." Against this strategy, we must promote self-awareness in civil societies, forms of responsible association, experiences of nonviolent participation, and practices of restorative justice on both a small and large scale. Leo XIII had already made this clear in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*: "*The consciousness of his own weakness urges the human person to call in aid from without. We read in Scripture: 'Two are better than one, for they have the advantage of their society. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up' (Eccles 4:9-10).*"

May this be one of the fruits of the Jubilee of Hope, which has moved millions of people to rediscover themselves as pilgrims and to begin within themselves that disarmament of heart, mind and life. God will surely respond to this by fulfilling his promises.

*Extract from Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
for the World Day of Peace, 1st January 2026.*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 25TH JANUARY	9.30am 11.30am 7.00pm	SVP Tea & Coffee - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 27TH JANUARY	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
WED 28ST JANUARY	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 29TH JANUARY	2.00pm 8.00pm	SVP Warm Winter Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 30TH JANUARY	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 31ST JANUARY	6.00pm	Ignite Post Confirmation Event	Our Lady & St Michaels, Garston
SUN 1ST FEBRUARY	9.30am 11.30am 7.00pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 24TH JANUARY <i>ST FRANCIS DE SALES</i>	9.30am Tom Tingling RIP	6pm Bavy Owens (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Alec Ray & Family (Ints.) 6pm Bridget Ginty RIP	10.30am Heather & Berti Kean RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MON 26TH JANUARY <i>SS TIMOTHY & TITUS</i>	9.30am Veronica Kass RIP		
TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY	9.30am Tom Wickham RIP		9.30am Holy Souls
WED 28TH JANUARY <i>ST THOMAS AQUINAS</i>	12 noon Funeral - Veronica Dunne RIP	9.30am Barry Worrall RIP	
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY	9.30am Carol McHale (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY	9.30am Eugene Maguire RIP (Anniv.)		
SAT 31ST JANUARY <i>ST JOHN BOSCO</i>	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am David Tees RIP (1st Anniv.) 11am Christopher & Vanessa (Special Ints.) 6pm Verity Butcher (Ints.)	10.30am Rowyn Isabella O'Sullivan RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the Intentions of Rose N.		
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION	Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm	Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm	Confessions on request and by appointment

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Neville Mathews, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan, Mark & Janet Kirwan, Ann Aldridge, Judy Gordon, Alec Ray and Sean.

St John the Evangelist: Paul O'Connor, Louise Borg, Sandie Tew and Grace Haddad

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Julian Harris, Edith Moid and Sue Treanor.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

VERONICA DUNNE RIP

The funeral of Veronica Dunne will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 12 noon on Wednesday 28th January, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

HCPT BAKE SALE

On Sunday 25th January after the Rickmansworth 8.30am and 11am Masses and the Mill End 10.30am Mass, some members of Fr Andrew's HCPT group (Group 10) will be present selling cakes raising money to travel to Lourdes at Easter. HCPT- The Pilgrimage Trust is a charity that enables disabled and disadvantaged children and young people to enjoy a life changing pilgrimage holiday in Lourdes each year. They are supported by volunteer helpers, nurses and priests. For more information about the Trust go to <https://www.hcpt.org.uk/>

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE GROUP

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January from 7.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Hall. All women of the three parishes are welcome. We will be planning our packs for prisoners being released from prison with nothing much more than the clothes on their back. The packs are produced on behalf of PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust and we will be gathering items to put into the packs over the coming weeks, hopefully.

IGNITE

A discipleship event for Catholics aged 14-18 (Year 9+) across Hertfordshire. An opportunity to connect with other young Catholics from Watford, Hemel & St Albans, and grow in faith through teaching, discussion, prayer, doughnuts and games. Saturday 31st January at Our Lady & St Michaels, Garston. 6pm Vigil Mass followed by event. Organised by the ASCAT Youth Ministry Team. Please let the Parish Office know if you are planning to attend.

CANDLEMAS

On Monday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Mass will begin with the blessing of candles. Candles will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own, please feel free to do so.

FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Tuesday 3rd February is the Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats will take place at the end of Mass.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

There will be a special Mass in thanksgiving for the ministry of Cardinal Vincent Nichols over his 16 years as Archbishop of Westminster on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 5.30pm in Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome. Please also keep Archbishop-elect Richard Moth in your prayers as he prepares for his installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday 14th February. If you're not able to attend in person for the Vespers on 13th and the Mass on the 14th, there will be a live-stream broadcast on the Cathedral's website: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

ASH WEDNESDAY (18th February)

This year we would once again like to prepare our own ash from last year's palms (or palms from any previous year should you have them). Please hunt around at home for them and bring them to the sacristy after Mass by Sunday 15th February so they can be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to our Youth Group whose artwork that they submitted to the Westminster Youth Ministry competition in this Year of Hope came runner-up from entries across the diocese. The artwork will be going on tour over the coming weeks across our parishes so everyone can see what talented young people we have in our parishes.

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION - TALKS

Sometimes life poses challenges which we don't know how to tackle. You may feel crushed or oppressed, and alone in it. But God sees the sufferings of his people, and comes to save them by his powerful Word. Come to a journey through the Bible, and find that it speaks about your life, too! The course will be led by Fr Dom, and it will take place over 11 weeks on Sundays at 7pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 28TH SEPTEMBER – 2ND OCTOBER 2026

Visiting Krakow, The Salt Mine in Wieliczka, Wadowice – the birthplace of Pope St John Paul II, The Divine Mercy Basilica in Lagiewniki, and the Marian Shrine in Czestochowa. The pilgrimage also includes a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau remembering those who died during the Holocaust including St Maximilian Kolbe. Price: £799 plus flights. For full details please contact the parish office.

SAFEGUARDING

Being alert to matters of Safeguarding (ensuring the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults) is something to which are all invited to attend. There are information posters at the back of church - including warning signs to look out for, contact numbers and websites for information and support.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

THE ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Will take place on Saturday 7th February at 2pm at Westminster Cathedral. This will be preceded by a talk at 11.30am in Westminster Cathedral Hall by Dr Kieran Moriarty on the extraordinary story of the Lourdes miracle of Jack Traynor, the man from Liverpool whose miraculous healing was declared a miracle in 2024. Tickets for the talk are £5 per person, available from the link found on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

OUR PARISHES' SEA SCOUT GROUP

The Group are always pleased to welcome young people to join in with the variety of activities offered by the various sections. We are also in need of adult volunteers for all age groups to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. For further information please contact: info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 28th January, 11th & 25th February and 11th & 25th March. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3

We invite you to join us for Season 3 of The Chosen, a compelling portrayal of the life of Jesus through the perspectives of those who encountered Him. The group will meet for eight sessions, every Friday evening between 7-9pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall to watch an episode followed by discussion.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will host their Community lunch every 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30pm in the hall of St John the Evangelist. We look forward to welcoming our regular guests and parishioners from across the three parishes. If you know of someone who would benefit from this please let them know. We hope you can join us.

SVP VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support."

SVP TWINNING - Annual appeal for South Sudan

Please consider helping the SVP with their projects of vocational training for young adults, provision of a home for young boys, meals for infants and free healthcare for rural families. These life-saving projects need your help against a backdrop of continuous conflict, food insecurity and a growing humanitarian crisis. To donate please go to <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/SouthSudan>

FROM CHESS VALLEY SVP - Helping Sudanese refugees

Because of security and corruption issues the SVP cannot donate directly to Sudan to help deal with their appalling refugee crisis. However the UNHCR is one of the few agencies which can operate there to help with shelter, clean water and food. Please consider donating via this link: <https://donate.unrefugees.org.uk/general/~my-donation>

WARM WINTER SPACE

Chess Valley SVP will once again be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm. Hot drinks, cakes and biscuits will be provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email chessvalleysvp@gmail.com

MILL END FOOD BANK

The following items are needed: tinned soup, tinned vegetables, tinned custard/rice pudding, tinned meat e.g. casseroles/ mince (not corned beef), baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, snacks e.g. cup of soup/pot noodles/cereal bars, long life juice/squash, tea, coffee. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste – adult and children's. Items can be placed in the boxes provided at the back of each church.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday, 25th January, for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 1st February. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Thank you, *Sheila H*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 25th January, 1st & 8th February, 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th March (Palm Sunday).

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish whilst we await the appointment of our new Parish Safeguarding Representative, please contact either Fr Andrew or the diocesan safeguarding team via safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th March 2pm World Day of Prayer Service at St John the Evangelist.
12th-14th March Quarant-Ore Forty Hours Devotion
28th March 3pm CAFOD Lenten Walk (10km) - St John the Evangelist
17th May after 11am Mass Rickmansworth Marian Procession
7th June after 10.30am Mass Mill End Corpus Christi Procession
21st June after 9am Mass Chorleywood St John Fisher Procession